

Dear Parishioners,

We are the Church, the universal assembly of believers, the Body of Christ, called to build the kingdom of God. Each of us is part of this institution that can be traced back nearly two thousand years to Saint Peter, the rock on whom we are built. As we celebrate the Eucharist here today, let us reflect on this awesome privilege of being the part of this two-thousand-years-old mission and contemplate what we are called to do to bring it closer to perfection.

I would like to offer a big “thank you” to Fr. Francisco Ortega and Fr. Tomasz Wajdzik from Sacred Heart Parish in Melrose Park. Father Francisco and Father Tom covered for me during my vacation.

Some very important news: St. Bernardine Parish has been activated to begin the **Renew My Church** discernment process. Although we were originally scheduled for the last wave of this initiative, (2022 – 2023), the Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the process throughout the Archdiocese. St. Bernardine will be in a grouping with St. Luke parish in River Forest. Feel free to read more information about this topic on page seven of this bulletin and let me know if you have any questions.

When I came to St. Bernardine five years ago, our deanery was in need of a dean. Bishop Manz called me and asked me to take this position. I politely excused myself, telling Bishop Manz that I needed experience in being a pastor first. Since our former Dean, Fr. Hurlbert from Ascension, was transferred to his new assignment, our deanery is again in need of a dean. Again, Bishop Manz asked me to take on this responsibility, and after combined reflection and prayer, I agreed. I am hopeful that this position will allow me to gain new and useful experiences.

May God bless us in the end of the summer. Let us pray for needed graces to all of us in upcoming Renew My Church process.

Fr. Stan

HOUSING FORWARD

“The lingering virus is making it impossible for most of our congregation partners to host PADS emergency shelter for the foreseeable future” indicates the information from Housing Forward.

“We have enlisted the help of experts to help us develop, innovate and implement a strategy with a new framework for delivering shelter we will be investigating vacant or underused buildings, including unused hotels, empty dorms, apartment buildings and former convent properties”

There is no question in my mind that St. Bernardine’s continued help will be sorely needed. This pandemic has left even more people unemployed. Groups of parishioners have been making meals and paper sack lunches all summer, and the need continues. Our own St. Vincent de Paul group has been stocking underwear, and other clothing which will be distributed as needed. Mary Richie